

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2257

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

UNCLAS MANAGUA 0619

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EPAP, ETRD, PINR, NU, US

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA SEEKS EXPORT SWINE PRODUCTS TO US

1. NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SENGELMANN HAS SUBMITTED LETTER TO EMBASSY REQUESTING FORMALLY THAT LATTER OBTAIN NECESSARY USG CERTIFICATION FOR IMPORTATION OF PORK INTO US FROM NICARAGUA. SENGELMANN'S LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 7, SAYS THAT NICARAGUAN SWINE PRODUCTION HAS REACHED STAGE WHERE ACCESS TO US MARKET WOULD PROMOTE GREATER COMMERCIAL EFFICIENCY IN PIG INDUSTRY. (NICARAGUA HAS BEEN SHIPPING LIVE HOGS TO COSTA RICA AND PORK TO JAPAN.)

2. MINISTER STATED THAT THE PROCESSING OF HOG MEAT FOR EXPORT TO THE US WOULD BE CARRIED

OUT BY MEAT PACKING PLANTS CERTIFIED BY USDAO FOR EXPORTS TO THE US. HE ADDED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS A NATIONWIDE PROGRAM FOR PREVENTING SWINE CHOLERA AND ATTACHED A CERTIFICATE, UNDER HIS SIGNATURE, ASSERTING THAT NICARAGUA IS FREE OF SWINE CHOLERA.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT DEVELOPMENT OF PORK EXPORT BUSINESS COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO DIVERSIFICATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NICARAGUA'S AGRICULTURE-BASED ECONOMY. MOREOVER, SINCE SWINE RAISING IS PRIMARILY A SMALL-FARMER ENTERPRISE IN NICARAGUA, THE STIMULATION OF HOG PRODUCTION COULD COMPLEMENT SOME OF THIS MISSION'S AID OBJECTIVES. USAID'S INVIERNO PROGRAM SEEKS TO HELP POOR CAMPESINOS TO AUGMENT THEIR INCOME, INTER ALIA, THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETABLE FARM PRODUCTS; THE REGIONS WHERE INVIERNO PROGRAM IS MOST ACTIVE ARE IDEALLY SUITED FOR SMALL-SCALE PIG

FARMING.

4. US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN EXPORTING PORK TO US: ON FEBRUARY 8, NELSON GUILLEN OF DECOR INTERNATIONAL, INC., 2380 NW 7TH STREET, MIAMI, FL 33125, CALLED AT EMBASSY TO SAY THAT HIS COMPANY HOPES TO IMPORT UPTO 200,000 POUNDS OF FRESH AND FROZEN PORK FROM NICARAGUA MONTHLY. HE SHOWED EMBOFF COPY OF LETTER FROM PRODUCTOS CARNIC, S.A. OF MANAGUA SAYING THAT LATTER COULD SUPPLY SUCH QUANTITIES OF PORK. (CARNIC IS ONE OF FIVE USDA-CERTIFIED BEEF PACKING PLANTS IN NICARAGUA.) GUILLEN SAID THAT IF NICARAGUA IS APPROVED AS A SUPPLIER OF PORK PRODUCTS TO THE US, HIS FIRM WILL BRING FROM THE US A KNOWLEDGEABLE PLANT MANAGER TO SUPERVISE PORK OPERATIONS AT CARNIC.

5. GUILLEN NOTED THAT ORIGINAL INVITATION TO HIS FIRM TO LOOK INTO PORK EXPORTS TO THE US HAD COME FROM GENERAL ROGER BERMUDEZ, PRESS SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA. (CARNIC, WHICH IS OWNED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND FAMILY, HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACTIVE IN BUYING HOGS LOCALLY.)

6. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ANOTHER US FIRM MAY BE INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN SWINE PRODUCTION IN NICARAGUA.
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